Page 2

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the first paragraph on page 2 as follows:

C1

Unfortunately, analytically minimizing this cost function is mathematically intractable even for relatively simple scenarios (see e.g. J. Salz and E. Zehavi, *"Decoding under integer metric constraints"*, IEEE Transactions on Communications, vol. 43, pp. 307-317, 1995). ~~Accordingly, ad-hock solutions are often used.~~